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REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 3 and 6 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Albanese in view of Wright. Claim 4 was similarly rejected based on the combination of Albanese in view of Wright, further in view of Ramaswami. Claims 1 and 5 are currently amended. Claim 3 is now cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim. Applicant has cancelled claim 3 and amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is therefore requested. Claim 2 is a dependent claim which further distinguishes the claimed invention, and which is allowable for the same reasons as its base claim – claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is therefore also requested.

Claim 5 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Applicant submits that claim 5 distinguishes the cited references for the same reason that claim 1 is now allowable. In particular, the cited references fail to teach that during upstream transmission the station's tunable filter is selectively tuned to a wavelength different than the wavelength of the central office's CW laser, so that the station's tunable filter will selectively reflect light from the CW laser back to the central office, with said tunable filter being selectively tuned so as to modulate the light being reflected back to the central office, whereby an upstream transmission from the downstream station to the central office is effectively created. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 is therefore requested.

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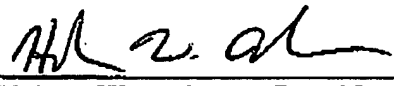
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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Holmes W. Anderson, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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